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Fifteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Thursday, 9 May 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Seung Kon LEE (Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

POLICY FRAMEWORK OF UNIDO — ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF STRUCTURE *(continued)*

1. **Ms. HASAN** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group had been concerned to hear the representative of the Netherlands repeat the suggestion made by the Minister for Foreign Trade of the Netherlands during UNCTAD IX that the possibility of merging UNIDO with UNCTAD should be explored. That suggestion was particularly surprising in view of the fact that the Netherlands had always been in the forefront of international and European efforts to further the development of the developing countries. In view of their specific mandates and different legal frameworks, UNIDO and UNCTAD had different functions, and any suggestion of a merger with any other organization in the United Nations system would be detrimental to the interests of the developing countries.

2. The views of the Group were contained in the Final Communiqué adopted by the twentieth Meeting of all chapters of the Group of 77, held in Geneva on 3-4 April 1996, which stated that "UNIDO should continue to perform its development mission as the sole United Nations agency with a mandate for the industrialization of developing countries and as a provider of integrated technical cooperation services to developing countries, addressing needs such as food, health, environmental protection and energy efficiency in industrial processes". The specificity and vital importance of UNIDO's role and mandate had been reaffirmed by all Member States, including the Netherlands, at the sixth session of the General Conference.

3. The Group drew attention to the Cochabamba Declaration, adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the European Union and the Rio Group, as recently as April 1996, in which they had underscored the importance of industrialization in achieving sustainable development and stressed the important role of UNIDO. They had also noted with appreciation the reforms taking place in the Organization.

4. The Group supported all efforts to strengthen UNIDO and to make it more efficient, so that it could fulfil its mandate more effectively. That could not be achieved through a merger with any organization, but only through more vigorous political support, which implied the provision of the necessary resources and prompt payment of assessed contributions by Member States.

5. It was the view of the Group that, renewing the spirit of the Yaoundé and Lima Declarations, it was necessary to consolidate the reform and strengthen UNIDO, rather than embark on unhelpful and uncertain

suggestions that could distract attention from the objectives in hand.

6. **Mr. MOLLINGER** (Netherlands) assured the members of the Group of 77 that the statement would be brought to the attention of the Netherlands Government without delay.

7. It appeared that his brief explanation of his Government's suggestions at UNCTAD IX had raised concern, rather than clarified the position. Up to a point that concern was very well founded. The United Nations system as a whole was experiencing the worst financial crisis in its existence. Although UNIDO's remaining Member States and the Secretariat were making a tremendous effort to restore the Organization to efficient operation, times had changed, and the world, including UNIDO, would never be the same again.

8. More effective provision of the necessary resources and prompt payment of assessed contributions by Member States, together with a more vigorous political commitment, would certainly enable any United Nations agency to improve its performance. However, it was by no means sure that such support would be forthcoming. The Netherlands would continue to honour its obligations to the developing countries, but it could not work miracles on its own. It could not change the prevailing financial environment.

9. His Government had therefore come to the conclusion that serious thought should be given to the question of what was really needed to achieve development. For too long, reliance had been placed on institutions created in the expectation that they would do the job. Sometimes they had performed beautifully, sometimes they had failed. Although much had been learnt over the past 30 years or so, actual progress made had been disappointingly slow.

10. The remarks made on the subject by the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Trade should be seen in that perspective. They were intended as a suggestion and an invitation to think together along different lines. The current session of the Board had offered no opportunity for such a discussion, but he sincerely hoped that one would arise in the near future.

INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT DECISIONS (IDB.15/L.2-L.10)

11. **The PRESIDENT** said that agenda items 4-14 were still open for the adoption of decisions. A number of draft decisions, which had already been discussed in informal consultations, were now before the Board for consideration (IDB.15/L.2-L.10).

12. **Mr. POSTA** (Hungary), speaking as chairman of the informal consultations, informed the Board that the group had reached consensus on proposals submitted by delegations in respect of agenda items 4, 8, 9 and 10. The recommendations of the Programme and Budget Committee on items 5 (a), 5 (b) and 5 (c) had greatly facilitated the work of the group, which had immediately agreed on those texts for consideration by the plenary. Lack of time had meant that it had not been possible to complete work on items 11 and 14. He would therefore provide brief explanations when those items were taken up.

13. **The PRESIDENT** said that he was submitting the draft decisions approved in the informal consultations to the Board as his drafts.

POLICY FRAMEWORK OF UNIDO — ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF STRUCTURE *(continued)* (IDB.15/14; IDB.15/L.5)

14. **The PRESIDENT** drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.5.

15. *The draft decision was adopted.*

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

(a) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGETS, 1996-1997;

(b) UPDATE OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF UNIDO;

(c) CEILING OF ASSESSMENTS *(continued)* (IDB.15/2, IDB.15/3, IDB.15/4, chap. II, IDB.15/5, IDB.15/15; IDB.15/L.2-L.4)

16. **The PRESIDENT** drew attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.2 on the implementation of the programme and budgets, 1996-1997.

17. *The draft decision was adopted.*

18. **THE PRESIDENT** drew attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.3 on the update of the financial situation of UNIDO.

19. *The draft decision was adopted.*

20. **The PRESIDENT** drew attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.4 on the ceiling of assessments.

21. *The draft decision was adopted.*

MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR UNIDO PROGRAMMES *(continued)* (IDB.15/7)

22. **The PRESIDENT** said that no draft decision had been submitted on the item. He proposed that the Board take note of the information provided by the Director-General.

23. *It was so decided.*

UNIDO TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN 1995 INCLUDING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT *(continued)* (IDB.15/13)

24. **The PRESIDENT** said that no draft decision had been submitted on the item. He proposed that the Board take note of the information provided by the Director-General and the Secretariat.

25. *It was so decided.*

SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA *(continued)* (IDB.15/6; IDB.15/CRP.2; IDB.15/L.8)

26. **The PRESIDENT** drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.8.

27. **Mr. BENMOUSSA** (Morocco) proposed that in paragraph (d)(i) the words "the industrial quality of Africa" be replaced by "Africa's industrial quality".

28. *It was so decided.*

29. *The draft decision, as amended, was adopted.*

INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES *(continued)* (IDB.15/10; IDB.15/L.6)

30. **The PRESIDENT** drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.6.

31. *The draft decision was adopted.*

FIELD REPRESENTATION *(continued)* (IDB.15/12; IDB.15/L.7)

32. **The PRESIDENT** drew the Board's attention to draft decision IDB.15/L.7.

33. *The draft decision was adopted.*

PERSONNEL MATTERS *(continued)* (IDB.15/4; IDB.15/CRP.3)

34. **The PRESIDENT** orally proposed a draft decision on item 11 with the following wording:

> "Takes note of document IDB.15/4 containing information on the composition of the Secretariat, including information on informal desirable ranges of representation as well as the assurances of the Director-General to pay due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the Secretariat within the context of the reform process, taking into account the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Constitution".

35. **Mr. DE YTURRIAGA** (Spain), **Mr. DASQUE** (France), **Mr. BERESNEV** (Russian Federation), **Mr. ABDEL HALIM** (Sudan), **Mr. BOERSNER** (Observer for Venezuela), **Mr. KOPULANDE** (Zambia) and **Mr. WANG Baorong** (China) regretted the fact that the text in question had not been produced in all United Nations working languages in time for consideration by Member States. They were prepared to join in a consensus to adopt the draft decision, provided that the procedure did not set a precedent.

36. **The PRESIDENT** announced that the text was now available in all official languages. If there were no objections, he would assume that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision on agenda item 11.

37. *It was so decided.*

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT *(continued)* (IDB.15/9)

38. **The PRESIDENT** said that no draft decision had been submitted on agenda item 12. If there were no objections, he would assume that the Board wished to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the subject.

39. *It was so decided.*

MATTERS RELATED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS *(continued)* (IDB.15/8 and Add.1; IDB.15/11 and Add.1)

40. **The PRESIDENT** announced that the Bureau had reviewed the information provided on four intergovernmental organizations that wished to enter into

appropriate relationships with UNIDO, which were referred to in document IDB.15/8 and Add.1. He recommended to the Board the adoption of the following draft decision concerning those organizations:

"The Industrial Development Board:

"(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.15/8 and Add.1;

"(b) Authorizes the Director-General, in accordance with Article 19.1 (a) of the Constitution of UNIDO and the Guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, para. 9) and, on the basis of the information contained in the annexes to documents IDB.15/8 and IDB.15/8/Add.1, to conclude appropriate relationship agreements with the following four intergovernmental organizations:

Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE)

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR)."

41. **The PRESIDENT** announced that the Bureau had reviewed the information provided on five international non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status with UNIDO, which were referred to in document IDB.15/11 and Add.1. He recommended to the Board the adoption of the following draft decision covering those organizations:

"The Industrial Development Board:

"(a) Takes note of the information provided in documents IDB.15/11 and Add.1;

"(b) Decides, in accordance with Article 19.1(b) of the Constitution of UNIDO and the Guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, para. 17), to grant consultative status with UNIDO to the following five international non-governmental organizations:

Austrian Senior Experts Pool (ASEP)
Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA)
International Network for Environmental Management (INEM)
International Technology Information Center (INTERTEC)
NIMTECH."

42. **Mr. AKAO** (Japan), supported by **Mr. INDELICATO** (Italy), regretted that no text had been distributed on the item even in one language.

43. **Ms. BATACLAN** (Philippines) said that while it was always best to have a written text for approval, the Bureau had been authorized to make recommendations to the Board.

44. **Mr. DE YTURRIAGA** (Spain) pointed out that the relevant information had been available in document IDB.15/8 for some time.

45. **Mr. KAYALAR** (Secretary of the Board) said that, as in the past, the Secretariat had produced background documents (IDB.15/8 and Add.1; IDB.15/11 and Add.1) in all six official languages and distributed them well in advance. Those documents contained all the relevant information concerning intergovernmental organizations seeking to enter into relationship agreements with UNIDO and non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status. In introducing the item at the second plenary meeting, the President had clearly pointed out the procedure to be followed, namely that the Bureau of the Board would review those applications and report directly to the plenary through the President. That had been the practice for some years and had not caused any problem heretofore. However, if delegations wished that the recommendations of the Bureau be produced in six languages in the form of an "L paper", that could easily be done.

46. **Mr. AKAO** (Japan) said that the information could have been included in the draft report and suggested that that procedure be followed on the next occasion.

47. **Mr. INDELICATO** (Italy) pointed out that the question was not one of information, but of an opportunity to discuss the matter. That should be made possible in future.

48. **The PRESIDENT** said he would assume that if there were no objections the Board wished to adopt the draft decisions on intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations which he had read out.

49. *It was so decided.*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DATE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION (IDB.15/CRP.1; IDB.15/L.9)

50. **Mr. POSTA** (Hungary), speaking as chairman of the informal consultations, said that since lack of time had prevented the discussion of a draft decision on item 14 in the informal consultations, draft decision IDB.15/L.9 was now being submitted for consideration by the Board.

51. With regard to the blank spaces in paragraph (a), he reminded Members of the recommendation of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC/AS.3/L.5) that the Board hold its sixteenth session from 20 to 22 November 1996.

52. Paragraph (b) contained a proposed provisional agenda, based on the contents of annex II to conference room paper IDB.15/CRP.1. In consideration of the mandates emanating from the current session, new items 4, 5 (d), 5 (f) and 8 had been added. Item 12, on personnel matters, had no sub-items indicated, it being understood that any developments concerning the International Civil Service Commission or other matters would be covered. The decision numbers indicated against some items were intended for reference purposes only and would not form part of the item titles.

53. **Mr. KOC** (Turkey) said that his delegation attached great importance to the subject of industrial investment promotion, which constituted one of the basic elements of industrialization, especially for the developing countries. That topic had been included on the Board's agenda at the previous session, but not at the current session. He therefore proposed that it be added to the provisional agenda of the next session, as a new and separate item.

54. **Mr. INDELICATO** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, while he recognized that industrial investment promotion was an important topic, he felt that it might be preferable to include it under item 3 of the provisional agenda, within the general context of the annual report of the Director-General on UNIDO's activities, rather than as a separate item. It was not in the interests of Member States or of the Organization to have an agenda comprising many individual items.

55. **Mr. BERESNEV** (Russian Federation), agreeing with the remarks made by the representative of Turkey, said that investment promotion was a very important topic, particularly for the developing countries and the economies in transition. Within his own Government's strategy, it was a major theme in which UNIDO played a crucial role. International investment flows were rapidly developing and new trends were constantly emerging in the field of international finance. UNIDO's investment promotion activities needed to take account of those trends and to be evaluated and adjusted accordingly. Member States had to be able to consider such issues. His delegation therefore wished to stress its interest in having the proposed item included in the agenda of the next Board session.

56. **Mr. ABDEL HALIM** (Sudan) said that in the present economic climate, with the growth of the free market system and the private sector, the topic of investment promotion was of great importance to the developing world, and particularly to the least developed countries. It merited priority attention and should accordingly be dealt with as a separate agenda item.

57. **Mr. BENMOUSSA** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that he failed to understand the reservations expressed by the representative of Italy. Since the report of the Director-General in principle covered all the Organization's activities, there was no reason to pick out one activity in particular for mention under agenda item 3. The document prepared by the Secretariat on activities of investment promotion services would provide a sufficient basis for separate treatment of the topic at future sessions. There was not a single Investment Promotion Service (IPS) office in the entire African continent, and Africa's share of current world investments of $235 billion amounted to $3 billion only. With the present globalization of the world economy, investment promotion would be a key area of UNIDO's future activities. He therefore wished to suggest that item 8 of the provisional agenda be amended to read "Field representation, including investment promotion services".

58. **Mr. AKAO** (Japan), **Ms. HASAN** (Pakistan), **Mr. KAGODA** (Uganda), **Mr. AL-ZEID** (Saudi Arabia), **Mr. ABOUZEID** (Egypt), **Mrs. LAJOUS** (Mexico) and **Mr. KHALIL** (Tunisia) supported the Turkish proposal.

59. **The PRESIDENT**, replying to a question from the representative of Japan, said that, in accordance with the rules of procedure, it would be for the Board to decide at its next session whether to include a supplementary item in its provisional agenda.

60. **Mr. INDELICATO** (Italy) said that while he welcomed the addition of item 5 (d), "Financial regulations", his main concern was to guard against a proliferation of agenda items. He therefore suggested that items 7 and 8, "Industrialization of the least developed countries" and "Field representation", should be incorporated in agenda item 3 and their full titles

retained. Since no proposals had been submitted at the current session on agenda item 10, "Joint Inspection Unit", he suggested that the item should be deleted. Finally, agenda item 12, "Personnel matters", would be covered under other items, such as item 4, "Implementation of the reform", and should also be incorporated in agenda item 3.

61. **Mr. CURIA** (Argentina) said that the revision of the provisional agenda would be a lengthy process. He suggested that it should be adopted as it stood, due account being taken of the European Union's comments. It could then be discussed in informal consultations.

62. **Mr. BENMOUSSA** (Morocco) said that he was opposed to the deletion of items 7 and 8 and their inclusion in item 3. Furthermore, the fact that no proposals had been submitted on the Joint Inspection Unit, was no justification for the deletion of the item; a draft decision or resolution might well be submitted before the next session. Referring to rule 10 (2) of the rules of procedure of the IDB, he said that the procedure currently pursued by the Board was no different from that followed hitherto and that an agenda consisting only of the annual report of the Director-General would be inadequate. Representatives were clearly interested in different items of the provisional agenda and all avenues of discussion should be kept open.

63. **Ms. BATACLAN** (Philippines) said that her country would welcome the proposals put forward by the European Union if they served to rationalize the Board's work. However more time would be needed to consider their implications. The agenda could be adopted as it stood and subsequently discussed during informal consultations.

64. **Mr. EL GAILANI** (Sudan) said agenda items 7 and 8 were of great importance to the developing countries and should be retained as separate items. Italy's proposal was illogical, since the Board had already adopted draft decisions IDB.15/L.6 and IDB.15/L.7. Furthermore, since the annual report of the Director-General was a report on all the Organization's activities, it could as well be argued that all substantive agenda items should be included under it.

65. **Mr. AKAO** (Japan), proposed that the Board should adopt the provisional agenda, as amended by Turkey, and consider the proposals put forward by the European Union during informal consultations.

66. **Mr. ARIZAGA** (Ecuador) pointed out that the agenda was provisional and that there would be six months in which to discuss it further. His delegation had serious difficulties with the proposal put forward by the European Union, particularly since the Board had already adopted draft decisions IDB.15/L.6 and IDB.15/L.7, requesting the Director-General to continue his efforts in relation to the industrialization of developing countries and field representation in 1996. The annual report of the Director-General at the sixteenth session would be concerned with the activities of the Organization in 1995. It would therefore be illogical to include agenda items 7 and 8 in agenda item 3.

67. **Mr. DE MARIA Y CAMPOS** (Director-General) pointed out that the document under discussion was the provisional agenda, which could be supplemented and could also be considered by the Bureau before the opening of the sixteenth session.

68. The agenda items referred to matters on which the Secretariat was required to report by previous decisions of the Board. In the case of the Joint Inspection Unit, a report had been submitted to the current session of the Board and had been accepted, though there had been no decision on the subject.

69. **The PRESIDENT** invited the Board to adopt the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session (IDB.15/L.9), as amended by Turkey, to include an additional item on industrial investment promotion.

70. *It was so decided.*

71. **Mr. INDELICATO** (Italy) speaking on behalf of the European Union and in explanation of his previous proposals, said that it had been acknowledged at the General Conference that UNIDO had made considerable efforts to rationalize its work, better identify its role and lay the foundation for a new organization. Those changes necessarily had consequences for the actions of Member States, particularly in the policy-making organs. In that light, the conduct of business during the current session was something that ought not to be repeated. Lengthy statements had been made containing impossible demands and repetitions of generalities which did not help the Organization to fulfil its duty. Since the Secretariat had provided information requested under past resolutions, it did not seem necessary to adopt similar resolutions with only minor amendments. Was it necessary to repeat the same recommendations on the same subjects? Did the Director-General have to be asked to do what he was already legally obliged to do? Was it really helpful to address questions of micro-management? Should overlapping reports be requested, when it had been agreed at the General Conference to streamline reporting so as to allow the Secretariat to discontinue the publication of documents that overlapped with the new and consolidated annual report? Was it necessary to renegotiate in new resolutions language that had already been adopted at recent sessions of the policy-making organs?

72. He believed that the resolutions produced at the current session were repetitive and reflected an attitude towards the Organization that would hardly improve the quality of its work and services, or increase its reputation or the interest it aroused on the international political scene. His proposal to shorten the duration of forthcoming meetings was intended as a step in a new direction. Ways should be found of introducing changes which were helpful and constructive for the Organization, which were substantive, realistic and manageable, and not formalistic or unproductive. That would help UNIDO to orient its activities towards questions which really made a difference.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION (IDB.15/L.1)

73. **Mr. SÖLENDIL** (Turkey), Rapporteur, explained that owing to lack of time the report (IDB.15/L.1) contained many blank spaces, but that in its final form it would reflect the events that had taken place during the whole session. Paragraphs 24 and 25 referred to matters on which no decisions had been taken, so that the last sentences of those paragraphs would state that at the suggestion of the President, the Board had taken note of the information provided by the Director-General in the document or documents, as appropriate. A similar text would be inserted in paragraph 31. Paragraphs 4 to 11 would reflect actual participation, full information on which had become available only that day.

74. The **PRESIDENT** thanked the rapporteur for his statement and said that, if there were no objections, he would assume that the Board wished to adopt the draft report as a whole, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with finalizing the text in consultation with the Friends of the Rapporteur as soon as possible after the closure of the session.

75. *It was so decided.*

CLOSURE OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

76. **Mr. DE MARIA Y CAMPOS** (Director-General) said that during the session there had been an unequivocal and forceful recognition of the reform achievements and, more specifically, an endorsement of the organizational restructuring in the first quarter of 1996. The reform was on track and its impact was beginning to be strongly felt. There had been a consensus, which he fully shared, that reform was concerned with more than downscaling and changing procedures. It was essentially about the relevance, impact and quality of UNIDO's services to Member States.

77. He had appreciated the overwhelmingly positive feedback received on the five new high-impact programmes. He was particularly pleased to note both the strong demand and the funding commitments from Member States for those new initiatives. He wished to thank delegations, particularly those from Africa, for the support expressed for the proposed Alliance for Africa's Industrialization. That support had been reinforced in many bilateral meetings with African Ministers and representatives. The Alliance would be further strengthened in close consultation with all parties in the months to come.

78. He had heard very favourable comments on the importance of UNIDO as a global forum and, more specifically, as an adviser on policy and normative aspects of industrial development. That function, which was not new for UNIDO, could be built on, but caution was advisable. UNIDO could play a useful role as a specialized agency and as an honest, neutral, broker.

79. His initiatives to bring about better inter-agency cooperation had met with a good response, particularly with regard to planned cooperation with UNCTAD and other organizations. However, as the Japanese representative had rightly emphasized, fruitful cooperation presupposed the existence of clear demarcation lines. He hoped that Member States could help UNIDO in that regard.

80. The most important point was that Member States had sent one loud and clear message: UNIDO was more than ever indispensable for the developing countries and for countries in transition, and for the developed countries as well, as a specialized, competent and autonomous agency to provide technical support for industrial development and to promote international industrial cooperation and investment.

81. A general theme had been that it would be desirable for the UNIDO Secretariat and Member States to intensify regular informal consultations. That proposal would be put into effect with respect to a number of areas, such as the format and content of the programme and budgets, the reform of the process of governance, the collection of assessed contributions, the appointment of managing directors, the mobilization of financial resources and the support programmes for different developing regions and countries.

82. UNIDO needed the support of all Member States. At a time of uncertainty and change in the United Nations system, UNIDO was happy that it had been at the forefront of reform and that Member States were recognizing that. However, it was important that all Member States should pay their contributions. The information received so far with regard to arrears on assessed contributions was not very promising, and he

would urge all Member States to support his endeavours in that respect.

83. In conclusion, he thanked Member States for their patience and their guidance. He fully shared the confidence expressed in UNIDO and looked forward to the sixteenth session.

84. **Mr. ARIZAGA** (Ecuador) said that new ideas had been put forward during the session, some of which had aroused concern among Member States. He noted that only one group of countries had presented specific proposals. He hoped that the November 1996 session of the Board would be held in a more constructive spirit, so that all countries could benefit from the deliberations.

85. **Ms. BATACLAN** (Philippines) said that while it was tempting to reply to statements that the Board had demanded the impossible, she believed that it was important to submit resolutions on matters requiring a decision by the Board. She was committed to improving the governance of the Organization through the policy-making organs. The Director-General had asked for recommendations and her country was committed to complying with that request.

86. **Mr. INDELICATO** (Italy) pointed out that though it was necessary to consider all resolutions proposed, it was not necessarily mandatory to approve them. There was merit in considering, improving and discussing resolutions submitted by other countries. His main aim had been to streamline proceedings and reduce the quantity of paper generated and the duration of the session.

87. **Mr. BENMOUSSA** (Morocco) thanked the representative of the European Union for his active participation in the work of the Board.

88. **The PRESIDENT** said that, despite conflict and heated exchanges on important items, the session had reached a successful conclusion. He expressed his appreciation to all delegations that had participated actively and patiently in the work of the Board. It was gratifying that the Board had completed its work in less than the time originally scheduled for it. The conclusions reached would provide useful guidance for the Secretariat.

89. It was encouraging to note the support for UNIDO expressed by every Member State during the session. That was a key factor that would enable UNIDO to reactivate itself in a difficult situation. He was glad that the situation with regard to the payment of annual contributions had improved, which reflected the confidence of Member States.

90. It was gratifying to note that the reform process had been implemented without great difficulty; it would provide a firm basis for consolidating moral and substantive support to UNIDO.

91. After the exchange of the usual courtesies, **the PRESIDENT** declared the fifteenth session of the Industrial Development Board closed.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.